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EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.
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WAR NEWS.

Advices received through Southern sources state that an advance has been made and a battle fought near Charleston. On Wednesday morning, two thousand federal troops landed on James Island, opposite the city, on the Stono river, and a battle took place, resulting in a repulse of the Federal troops, with a loss of twenty taken prisoners. Firing still continued when the dispatch was forwarded, and it was rumored that one hundred more of the Federal troops had been cut off and captured. The last dispatch from General Gist is dated Wednesday, and reports the Federal troops still in force before him, and another engagement imminent. It was reported that a large Federal force had also landed on Johns and Battery Islands. It is probable that the engagement took place within four miles of Charleston, as the first landing of Federal troops on James Island, on the Stono, was about that distance from the city.

It is stated by an arrival from Port Royal that, on the night of the 28th ult., an expedition proceeded from Beaufort to Pocoligo, at which point the railroad between Charleston and Savannah was destroyed, after the Confederates guarding it had been driven off. Confederate accounts of this movement state that the Federal troops were met by a small force, who held them in check until reinforcements came up, when they retreated, without accomplishing their purpose, alleging that the nearest approach which the Northern troops made to the railroad was still two miles distant.

A desperate battle was fought between Gen. Fremont's army and the Confederates under Gen. Jackson, seven miles beyond Harrisonburg, on Sunday. The engagement commenced about eleven o'clock in the morning, and was hotly contested until four in the afternoon: skirmishing continued until dark. A regiment of Federal troops which assailed the right wing of the Confederates was compelled to retire after a loss of more than half their strength.—The right wing of the Federal army twice repulsed advances of the Confederates in attempting to turn the position. The Federal artillery were very effective, and a Confederate regiment is believed to have lost two thirds of their number in the effort to capture one of the batteries. The Confederate batteries were repeatedly silenced and forced to abandon their position. The losses on both sides are reported to be very heavy, that of the Federals being estimated at eight hundred killed, wounded, and missing. Gen. Fremont's official dispatch says that his army encamped on the field of battle, and expected a renewal of the engagement at any moment.

A dispatch from Gen. Fremont states that the loss of the Confederates in the engagements

near Harrisonburg on Friday was heavy.—Among their killed was said to be Col. Ashby, the famous cavalry leader.

Gen. Burnside has arrived at Norfolk, by the way of the Chesapeake and Albemarle canal, which he succeeded in clearing of all obstructions and reopening to navigation. A Federal regiment was attacked on Thursday last near Newbern, N. C., by a Confederate regiment in ambush, and nine men killed and a number wounded. A skirmish with cavalry recently took place near Washington, in which fifteen Federal troops put to flight one hundred and fifty Confederates.

Gen. Halleck in an official dispatch states that Gen. Beauregard with a portion of his army retreated from Baldwin to Okalona on last Saturday. He also states that the main body of the Confederate army is at Tupello, fifty miles south of Corinth.

The Southern papers, relating the great battles before Richmond, claim a complete victory in both fights, routing the Federal troops, and capturing prisoners, ammunition and army stores. Gen. Johnson was wounded, and Gen. Robert E. Lee is now in command.

The losses sustained by the Confederates in the late naval engagement at Memphis are estimated at from one hundred to one hundred and fifty, including from thirty to forty wounded.

The Washington National Republican, commenting upon the rejection, by the Missouri State Convention, of the proposition for "Emancipation with Compensation," says that as "the border States refuse to give slavery up, even when it is proposed that the expense of doing so shall be borne by others, they will have no pretence of a ground for complaint, if the course of events is such as to make their slaves worthless, and to leave them no indemnity whatever."

The Seward-Lyons treaty for the suppression of the African slave trade is officially promulgated. It is to remain in full force for the term of ten years. Instructions for the ships of the United States and the British navies, and regulations for the mixed courts of justice, accompany the publication.

The Navy Department has received despatches, from which it appears that Com. Prentiss, of the Albatross, recently sailed up the interior waters of South Carolina above Georgetown.

In the U. S. House of Representatives, yesterday, a communication was submitted, covering a proposition from the Danish Charge d'Affaires at Washington, for the transfer to and colonization of the free blacks and recaptured Africans in the Danish island of St. Croix, instead of sending them to Liberia. The consideration of the bill relating to claims for the loss of property by loyal citizens, and damage done thereto by the troops of the U. S. during the present war, was postponed until Thursday of next week.

Preparations are making in several cities and towns for the celebration of the 4th of July.

EMBALMENT.—Embalment of the dead has lately been a source of great consolation to sorrowing relatives, and is extensively practised. Those who are engaged in the pursuit, grade their charges according to the means of the deceased, varying from \$15 to \$100. The body of a private soldier is embalmed for \$15, and sent home in a handsome coffin for \$15 more. The process is simply to make an incision in any one of the arteries, and to inject therein a liquid invented by a Dr. Suequet, of Paris, which is a secret to the operators.

A body dying through sickness, is thus prepared in three hours, but when wounds have been received, a much longer time is required, according to the quantity and nature of the injuries. A gun-shot wound protracts embalment to eight hours, and cases occur where the process lasts for two days. An ordinary mode of conducting this operation has been to inject arsenic in the veins, as is done to preserve corpses for dissection, but this is only temporary in its effects, and, moreover, renders a corpse poisonous. It thoroughly pervades the surface of the skin, which, if kissed by relatives, creates illness, and often death. Touching a corpse thus prepared, with a cut or abraded finger, would engender a serious sore and great pain, perhaps terminating fatally.

The embalming fluid of Suequet exercises a remarkable effect, indurating the flesh, rendering it exceedingly hard and of marble whiteness. Even discolored bodies lose, under its influence, their purple tinge, and become of a light yellow. Owing to recent invention, opportunities of testing its powers of preservation have not extended for a long period, but many bodies are in existence in this country which were embalmed by this process in 1852 and subsequent years, which have not in the slightest degree altered, and promise to remain in the same condition indefinitely.

In connection with this subject it might be interesting to learn the mode of embalment of the far-famed Egyptian mummies, which are handed down to us, after an interment of several thousands of years, dried and perfectly black. The process was very simple, although it occupied a very long time; the brains and intestines were first extracted—the first through the nostrils, and the second by an incision in the side. The body was then shaved and washed, and the stomach filled with perfumes and spices. The whole person was then covered with natron (native carbonate of soda) for seventy days. It was then washed, steeped in a balsam, enwrapped in many thicknesses of linen, and was finally ready for the sarcophagus.

The U. S. Senate has passed a bill to donate lands to States and Territories that may establish colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts.

Commodore Goldsborough has on board his flag ship, the Minnesota, a complete printing press and apparatus, by means of which he strikes off copies of all his orders, letters and dispatches, for the seventy vessels of his fleet.

Mrs. Talmadge, wife of Rev. Mr. Talmadge, pastor of the Second Reformed Dutch church in Philadelphia, was accidentally drowned in the Schuylkill on Monday.

Quite a number of Indian chiefs, delegations from different tribes, are now in Washington.